



NREL Office Paper Goes 100% PCW

Fay Hoover is the paper purchaser for NREL. For almost 17 years, the Laboratory has used 30% Post-Consumer Waste (PCW) office paper. This all changes in FY06 because Fay Hoover has implemented the purchase of 100% PCW paper throughout NREL. Fay was able to secure a price that is approximately the same as the amount spent for the 30% PCW paper. The copy center performed pilot testing in copiers, printers, and fax machines and found no problems at all with the new paper. They even tested the amount of toner needed for copying and found no difference in the amount needed to make a quality print.

NREL is ahead of the "paper chase". If every agency in the federal government made the switch to 100% post consumer content paper today, the federal government would see \$53.4 Million in energy savings (445 million kilowatt hours of electricity) and \$4.9 Million in water savings (756 million gallons).

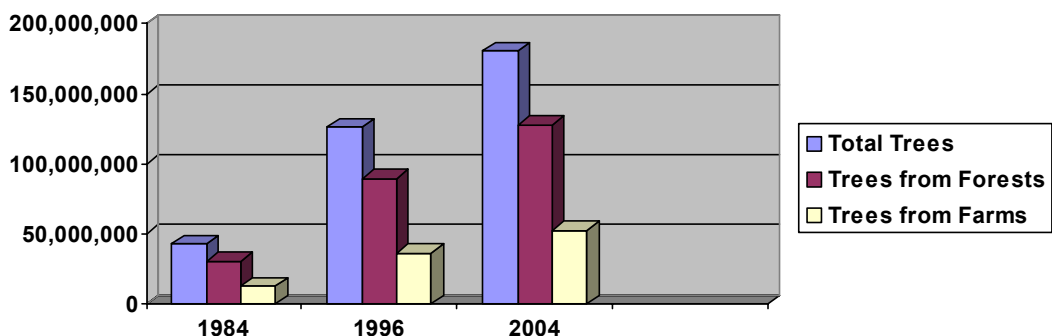
"The change to all recycled paper is another great step toward making NREL operations truly sustainable," Director Dan Arvizu said. "The work by Fay and others to reduce the Laboratory's impact on the planet without affecting quality will be yet another way NREL leads by example."

One of the most common myths surrounding office paper is that most paper is milled from farmed trees. This is not the case. The graph below illustrates that the majority of office paper still comes from forests that provide biodiversity in our ecosystems. One-hundred percent PCW office paper is sourced from old paper instead of new trees. According to Conservatree, every ton (40 cases) of 100% post consumer fiber paper saves the equivalent of the following:

- 24 trees forty feet in height
- 7,000 gallons of water
- 4100 kilowatt hours of electricity
- 60 pounds of air pollution

Sustainable NREL would like to thank Fay and her team for doing such a comprehensive job researching this paper option. It takes individual commitment to make positive change throughout the Laboratory and this is a great demonstration that one person can make a difference in our continuing Sustainability efforts.

Trees Utilized Per Year for Office Paper Use In The United States



Features:

NREL uses 100% PCW Paper

1

• NREL's Office Paper Recycling

• KUDOS to Blair Swezey

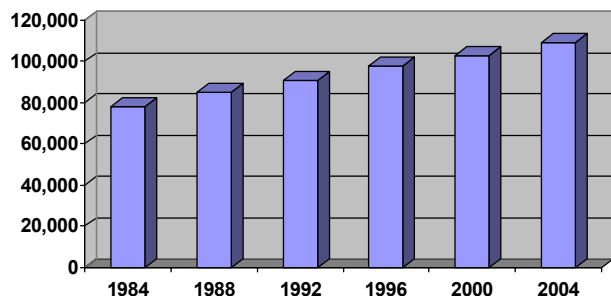
• Quick Tip

2

[Click on Headlines to Navigate](#)

NREL's State of Paper

In FY04 NREL decreased the amount of office paper recycled. Unfortunately, in FY05 the trend continued. The Laboratory recycled 122,390 lbs of paper in FY05, which is an approximate 5,000 lb reduction from FY04. However, the amount of office paper purchased increased from FY04 to FY05. In essence, we are using more paper and recycling less of it. NREL is not alone in this trend. The graph below reflects that office paper use has steadily increased throughout the Federal Government.



Office Paper Use in the Federal Government

Paper (Tons)

NREL now has the advantage of using of 100% PCW office paper (see front story), however the Laboratory still has to concentrate its efforts on recycling. There are a few things that each individual can do at the Laboratory to ensure that we maintain a successful recycling program. Make sure that you have a personal blue bin at your desk-side for paper. If you do not have one, contact Susan Huffnagle at extension 7547. If you are cleaning out your office area or moving to another location, recycle your old papers instead of throwing them in the trash. Work control at extension 7344 can help you arrange for a large recycle bin. Keep in mind that all sorts of paper can be recycled. For a complete list of recyclable items, go to the recycling Web site at http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable_nrel/recycling.html

Reducing paper waste is a three step process: 1) the use of less paper as a whole, 2) using 100% PCW office paper when it is necessary to print something and 3) recycling office paper whenever possible. If everyone follows this three step process, the paper waste cycle at NREL will decrease.

Features:

NREL uses 100% PCW Paper

1

•NREL's Office Paper Recycling

•KUDOS to Blair Swezey

•Quick Tip

2

Click on Headlines to Navigate

Congratulations from One Pioneer to Another

Congratulations to NREL's Blair Swezey, Principal Policy Analyst for the Energy Analysis Group. Blair was honored with The Green Power Pioneer Award from EPA's Green Power Partnership (GPP). The GPP Web site states: "Over the past two decades, Blair Swezey's vision and accomplishments have been integral to advancing the U.S. green power market and uniting industry stakeholders to tackle key challenges, share best practices and highlight innovation....Blair's tireless work to help various industry segments and players has had an extensive effect on the market." Sustainable NREL appreciates the dedication that Blair has for Renewable Energy and we're proud to have him on NREL's team.



Check out the Reusable Office Supply Center now available on the top level of building 16/4. There are office supplies, desk organization units, computer/printing supplies and much more. Also, remember to look in the marked filing cabinets for all sorts of "goodies".

Feel free to drop off your New or Good-As-New office supplies so that others can use the materials you may no longer need.

Visit the Sustainable Pioneer archive: http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable_nrel/pioneer_news.html

Quick Tip: